Undertakings (PSUs) are engaged in exploration activities:

— Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)

— Oil India Limited (OIL)

— Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL)

— Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)

— Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

— Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

— National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)

— Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)

(b) In the last three years (2003-06), oil and gas discoveries have been made by ONGC and OIL in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tripura, eastern and western offshore areas.

(c) India has potential of about 28 billion tonnes of hydrocarbon resources falling in 26 sedimentary basins of India. Out of this, 8.2 billion tonnes of in-place reserves have been established.

Tax holiday for pipeline projects

1600. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has requested for allowing a 10 year tax holiday for oil and gas pipeline laying projects;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance;

(c) if so, the reaction of Ministry of Finance thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Ministry is in consultation with the Ministry of Finance on the issue of tax concessions to oil and gas pipeline projects.